



Fact Sheet

California Environmental Protection Agency

 **Air Resources Board**

Wilmington Air Quality Study

The Air Resources Board (ARB), in conjunction with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, have initiated a multi-year study of air quality in Wilmington. We chose Wilmington because of its close proximity to freeways, ports, petroleum refineries and other emissions sources. The purpose of this study is to understand how air pollution sources affect the community. While previous studies have focused on the differences in pollutant concentrations between communities in a region this study is one of the first to evaluate potential differences in air pollution levels within a community.

Measuring Air Pollution

In 2001-2002 the ARB measured more than 50 air pollutants at the Wilmington Park Elementary School. Results from this effort are available on ARB's internet web site which can be accessed through your local library: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/communities/studies/wilmington/wilmington.htm>. Over six months in the winter and spring of 2001-2002 the ARB and the AQMD measured a more limited set of air pollutants at Hawaiian Avenue Elementary School. An intensive, short term monitoring study is planned for the fall, 2003. The purpose of this study is to better understand the distribution of air pollutants and resultant health risks within Wilmington.

Identifying Air Pollution Sources

One of the major goals of this study is to quantify all emissions of air pollutants released in Wilmington. We are collecting information about automobiles, trucks, trains, ships, industrial facilities and local businesses. In 2002, ARB staff conducted surveys of 170 businesses including 52 major industrial facilities and 118 selected other businesses in order to assess and quantify the amount of air pollution released. In addition, the ARB is working with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to quantify the amount of air pollution released from all activities that occur within port boundaries. These data will be used, in conjunction with other sources of information, to compile a comprehensive inventory of pollutant emissions both within and surrounding Wilmington. This inventory will be used to estimate air pollution exposure and health risk.

Estimating Air Pollution Exposure and Health Risk

ARB staff estimate air pollution levels and associated health risk using computer models. These models take information about sources of air pollution and use them to estimate pollutant concentrations at all locations in the community. Model results will give us a clearer picture of air quality in Wilmington and the potential health risks associated with it.

Community and Business Participation

Participation of community residents, local business owners, community groups, local government agencies and other interested parties is essential for the success of this project. ARB staff will continue to be available to discuss the study and will share results as they become available.

For More Information

For more information regarding the Wilmington Air Quality Study, please contact Mr. Dale Shimp, the manager of the ARB's Environmental Justice Program, at (916) 324-7156.